using two or more contour intervals on the same map, which is necessarily fatal to relief expression. On very large scale maps, he says, contours are too far apart to express hill-shading. That of course is only true if the contour interval is not diminished proportionally. These points are not meant as criticism for the author is abandoning a somewhat narrow British view in the matter. His book is admirable, clear and surely useful. MARK JEFFERSON.

Contours and Maps: Explained and Illustrated. By Frederick Morrow. 116 pp. Maps, diagrams. Meiklejohn & Son, London, 1913. 1s. 6d. 7½ x 5.

This little book is a manual of instruction in passing English geography examinations, and it is admirably adapted to that end for readers of very little preparation.

The oroscopic maps that are offered as examples of expressive contouring have their white and dark contours so wide as inevitably to suggest models cut out of cardboard with distinct cliffs at each contour, much inferior to good fine-line contours.

But the greatest interest of the book to an American student of geography is the point of view, an utterly strange one to us. Not geography, not maps, nor even British contour maps are the subject of the book, but such aspects of British contour maps as have seemed important to British examiners. No such book could be printed in America. Our nearest equivalent is the unpublished instruction of some private tutors who get men of doubtful mentality through university examinations. Such an attitude is unfortunate for British geographical instruction, for the teacher who discovers that the British contouring is inferior to that executed by others is forbidden by the examination system to teach the better, but must stick to the worse. There will be no inspiration in his teaching. Moreover there is little chance of getting more expressive contouring into the Ordnance Survey maps—anything even remotely approaching the work of Matthes in this country—as long as examinations are able to exercise this inbreeding effect on methods. MARK JEFFERSON.

Didaktik der Himmelskunde und der Astronomischen Geographie. Mit Beiträgen von W. Foerster, K. Haas, M. Koppe, S. Oppenheim, A. Schülke. Verfasst von Dr. Alois Höfler. xii and 414 pp. Ills. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1913. Mk. 11. 10 x 6½.

The author shows how to overcome the traditional verbalism which has made the teaching of mathematical geography and astronomy such a thankless task in the lower and higher schools. He discusses the causes and effects of the neglect of this study and gives directions how to make the teaching of it real and full of interest for pupils of all ages, how to lead them to an actual understanding of astronomic facts and laws based on observation, instead of learning by heart paragraphs from textbooks. That even textbooks cannot always be relied on he demonstrates by an amazingly large collection of erroneous statements quoted from such books. Although based on the conditions in Austrian schools, the message of the book is not bounded by political lines. The defects of astronomical instruction which are here criticized are liable to be felt by the conscientious teacher of the subject in every country, and many will find in it advice and inspiration for their work, outlines of practical plans of study, suggestions for practical observation for the making of simple apparatus where means are limited, etc. The text is illustrated by many diagrams and two plates. M. K. GENTHE.

GENERAL

A Pilgrim's Scrip. By R. Campbell Thompson. xii and 345 pp. Map, ills., index. John Lane Co., New York, 1915. $3.50. 9 x 6.

The diary of a savant of the spade and pick, engaged in excavating archæological finds, and in transcribing cuneiform inscriptions for the British Museum. In a droll, whimsical style, abounding in little-used words and terms,